

**Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission
Minutes of Meeting – April 27, 2004**

Present: Commissioners
 Ron Welton, Executive Director
 Sue Cone, Village of Calumet
 Kathryn Eckert, At-Large, by phone
 Robert Langseth, Houghton County Board of Commissioners
 Paul Lehto, Calumet Township
 Tom Nemacheck, U.P. Travel and Recreation Association
 Clyde Raasio, Quincy/Franklin Township

National Park Service – Keweenaw National Historical Park
 Frank Fiala, Superintendent
 Susan Burack, Grant Writer
 Steve DeLong, Landscape Architect
 Kathleen Harter, Chief of Interpretation and Education

Guests
 David Bishop, Ontonagon County Historical Society
 Bruce Johanson, Ontonagon County Historical Society
 Babette Jokela, citizen
 Lisa McKenzie, City of Hancock
 Garrett Neese, the Daily Mining Gazette
 Erik Nordberg, MTU Archives & Copper Country Historical Collections
 Julie Sprenger, Laurium Manor Inn
 Denise Taylor Korman, Houghton County Historical Society
 Amy Wisti, office of Rep. Bart Stupak

Absent: None

Recording
Secretary: Jane Nordberg

NOTE: There were no taped proceedings of this meeting. The record herein reflects the handwritten notes of the Recording Secretary.

Call to Order

A regular meeting of the Keweenaw National Historical Park Advisory Commission was held on Tuesday, April 27, 2004 at the KEWE Headquarters in Calumet. Chairman Paul Lehto called the meeting to order at 9:00 a.m.

Agenda

The agenda was approved as written.

Review of Minutes

Approval of the January 27, 2004 meeting minutes was tabled.

Report from the KHNPA Executive Director

Ron Welton invited the commission to take part in the Old Settlers' Ball/Copper Country Homecoming celebrations to take place in the four-county area June 27 through July 3. He is putting together a booth for the history and photo fair to be displayed at Dee Stadium during the Homecoming. There will be a two-day symposium on the Tech campus during which some of the KEWE staff will present talks regarding Park projects.

The Main Street Calumet Spring newsletter has come out; Ron distributed a copy to the Commission.

Ron is working with Kathleen and Tom to develop site standards. There will be a meeting on May 11 and local organizations are invited.

The NPS challenge cost-share grant to fund building repairs was not awarded. Sue Cone asked Ron what this entailed. Ron said it encompassed a historic district and was not tied to a specific project.

Report from the KEWE Superintendent

Frank Fiala reported the Park has requested appraisals of four properties, the Quincy Mine Hoist easement, Coppertown property, the Quincy blacksmith shop, and the Calumet depot.

The Park is heavily involved with the EPA and MDEQ at the Quincy Smelter site. The EPA is in dispute with the MDEQ over mitigation.

Regarding KEWE personnel, Dan Johnson will start on May 11 as an interpretive ranger. He will report to Kathleen Harter, filling the position Tom Baker held before Tom's move to management assistant. Lynn Bjorkman will lead the Historic Resources Report for the history center to be located at the Library, and the Pay Office. Jeremiah Mason will be supported by the Park during his two years at University of Michigan graduate work as an archivist.

The budget outlook is not overwhelmingly positive. The administrative divisions have absorbed pay increases through FY04 which will affect FY05 funding. There is enough to cover expenses but the Park may not be supporting any "extras." Frank explained this is a shortfall due to Hurricane Isabel, and not mismanagement by the Park Service. It is a case of inadequate funding

and inflation. Frank is looking at working with other entities to combine resources. There are opportunities to combine efforts with Isle Royale, and working with Apostle Islands on storage.

Contracts on the Union Building should be out by late summer or winter. The Village of Laurium study is now complete. There will be a visitors' survey regarding alternative transportation occurring this summer. Steve DeLong has developed a concept plan for Rock Harbor.

Frank thanked Tom Baker for his work on the Main Street Calumet newsletter. Sue asked if the ribbon-cutting for Calumet would be a good time to bring up the MDOT, particularly Andy Sikkema, to thank him for his help. Frank thought it was good to coordinate that.

The Park has updated its business plan. Frank is pleased to hear the staff will be involved with presentations for the Local History Symposium. He was out of town for the Second Annual Local History High School Smackdown, but his wife and in-laws gave a glowing report. Frank thanked Ellen Leppanen, Abby Sue Fisher, Brian Hoduski, Kathleen Harter, and Jo Urion for their work on a great event.

Bob Langseth asked if KEWE was going to hire more interpretive staff. Frank deferred the question to Kathleen Harter, who said she had hired one interpreter for the Quincy unit, and was working on two more. They would have two weeks of interpretive training.

Reports from the Commission

Clyde Raasio asked Frank for a project update on the Quincy Visitors' Center. Frank said there would be a project starting the latter part of the summer regarding the driveway at the Pay Office.

Sue Cone thanked Tom Baker for his work with Main Street Calumet.

Tom Nemacheck said the message about the U.P. is getting out, but slowly. "Hook and Bullet" shows that attract fishing and outdoors enthusiasts may be a better outlet than home and garden shows.

Kathryn Eckert asked Ron if he had submitted the funding for Old Victoria and Ron said he had. Kathryn looks forward to giving a presentation at the Homecoming.

Bob Langseth congratulated the Park and others involved in the Local History Smackdown. There should be a spinoff "adult Smackdown."

Sue Cone inquired if Michael Matts was returning. The funding was for two planning sessions, and only one has been completed. Frank said it would be some time before funding could occur for a second visit. Ron said they were not abandoning the planning sessions. Kathryn said the sessions need to be held so the Commission knows what kind of money they have in their budget. Bob said it was the Commission's Number One priority. Sue suggested the Commission

have monthly meetings or conference calls, and Bob apologized for missing the last conference call. Sue will set regular meetings and call Kathryn. Bob will meet with Ron.

Reports from Legislative Officers

Amy Wisti reported that Congress was back in session. She commended Frank on all the KEWE projects in progress despite a tight budget.

Public Comments

Bruce Johanson gave a history of the Ontonagon County Historical Society and introduced Dave Bishop, chairman of the Ontonagon Lighthouse Commission. The OCHS was one of the first organizations to get on board when KEWE was formed, and was told they would be receiving a sign designating them a cooperating site. They have not received designation nor a sign. Bruce respectfully asked that the Ontonagon County Historical Society be designated a cooperating site of the Park. Ron said he did not doubt Ontonagon's contribution and would take Bruce's request under advisement.

Erik Nordberg asked if there were guidelines for designating cooperating sites as the MTU Archives would be interested in a designation as well. Ron said the process was ongoing. The Commission is working with partnerships and existing sites. Other organizations may be added once the existing sites have been reviewed. Frank added that no protocols or guidelines existed at the time the Park designated the 16 cooperating sites. Some organizations do not understand the NPS culture and are not meeting basic Park Service expectations. There has been a moratorium on designating new sites until the guidelines are figured out.

Bruce said he would like to help with planning. Bob invited Bruce to the May 11 planning meeting.

Babette Jokela said that travel writers have tremendous power to draw visitors. A 1983 Gourmet magazine article drew a lot of people to Copper Harbor, and Ladies Home Journal has a listing of places that are "cheap and interesting." Tom Nemacheck said that a quarter of his time is spent with travel writers.

Jane Nordberg told Frank he missed one of his staff when he congratulated them on their role in the Smackdown; Tom Baker did an excellent job with the website and again created outstanding flyers for the event. She also thanked Garrett Neese and Sergio Buoniconte from the Gazette for a full-page color article, Denise Taylor and the Houghton County Historical Society, and Julie Sprenger and the Laurium Manor Inn for being sponsors, and Bruce Johanson for his role as a judge.

As Paul Lehto had already left for an appointment, Bob adjourned the meeting at 10:30.

The next meeting is scheduled for 9:00 a.m. on July 27, 2004 at the Park headquarters in Calumet.